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# Message Text

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51
ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 SSO-00 ABF-01 PER-01 MMS-01 /025 W
---------- 087742
R 281108Z MAY 75
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4768
INFO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 9731

SECSTATE FOR EAGLEBURGER FROM WHITEHOUSE
SINGAPORE FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HABIB

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: APER, TH, HK
SUBJ: INDOCHINA WATCHERS IN BANGKOK AND HONG KONG

REF: STATE 122009

1. WE EXPECT THE ARRIVAL IN LATE JUNE OR EARLY JULY OF FSO CHARLES TWINING TO REPLACE CARNEY. TWINING WILL JUST HAVE COMPLETED CAMBODIAN LANGUAGE TRAINING. WE NOTE THAT HE HAS PREVIOUSLY SERVED IN VIETNAM. IN OUR VIEW THIS PARTICULARLY WELL QUALIFIED OFFICER SHOULD BE ABLE TO HANDLE REPORTING ON BOTH CAMBODIAN AND VIETNAMESE DEVELOPMENTS. WE WOULD WELCOME THE ASSIGNMENT OF AN ADDITIONAL SECRETARY.

2. IT STRIKES US THAT WASHINGTON, D.C. BASED PERSONNEL CAN ANALYZE FBIS REPORTS AS EASILY FROM THERE AS FROM BANGKOK. GIVEN THE CURRENT ATMOSPHERE IN THAILAND AND OUR DECLINING MILITARY PRESENCE, WE DO NOT BELIEVE THIS IS THE TIME TO BUILD UP THE U.S. MISSION.

3. WE WOULD NOT WANT TO RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY OF ASSIGNING ANOTHER OFFICER TO INDOCHINA COVERAGE WHEN AND IF EXTENSIVE AIR TRAVEL OPENS UP TO BOTH PHNOM PENH AND SAIGON. DEBRIEFING TRAVELERS WOULD BE A PRINCIPAL TASK OF A SECOND OFFICER. AS OF NOW, WE SEE NO NECESSITY FOR A SECOND OFFICER.
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WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

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